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Volume 11, Number 23

Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

March 8 - March 14, 1995

INSIDE

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AT A GLANCE

What does the future hold for the NAACP?

WASHINGTON, DC—The recent razor-thin NAACP National Board election of officers was historic and dramatic in many ways—but few journalists were able to capture for the public what really happened. The Black Press of America was able to get this "insiders" report from interviews with individuals who had access to the William Gibson core of supporters. Greenville, South Carolina dentist William F. Gibson, who had served as Chairman of the civil rights organization for 10 years, was defeated by the widow of slain civil rights martyr Medgar Evers, by a vote of 30 to 28. But many of the voters who provided Ms. Evers that winning See NAACP/Page 10

Rice bill advances

TRENTON—The Senate Education Committee has approved Senator Ronald Rice's (D-ESSEX.) bill requiring school attendance until age 18. This bill takes a long-term approach to education and to many of the social problems we have today," Senator Rice said. "It begins a long-term conditioning process that must begin at a young age. It will remove the stigma of 'dropout' and tell all young people growing up today, and especially those who will be growing up in the future, that you're in school for the long haul. You can't drop out at 16 and go hang out on a street corner for the rest of your life."

AHN airs comedy classics

NEW YORK, NY—The African Heritage Network (AHN), hosted by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, is scheduled to broadcast two hit comedy classics this month. The movies *Upstart Saturday Night* featuring Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier and the hilarious detective story *Come Back Charleston* featuring Raymond St. Jacques and Geoffrey Cambridge are part of AHN's Movie of the Month series. Upstart Saturday Night will air on Saturday March 11 at 11:30 p.m. and *Comeback Charleston* See AHN CLASSICS/Page 7

A CITY MOURNS

by Sandra Wright

Outside, the day was sunny and not too cold. Inside the Seminary Baptist Church in Paterson, seemed to loom a large black cloud over the heads of its mourners.

There was a chill present, but not one related to cold. It was a pain, regret, maybe even hatred, and a deep sense of loss; as hundreds of friends, relatives, school mates and even strangers came to say Good-Bye to Lawrence "Little L" Meyers who was fatally shot in an alleged drug bust on Tuesday, February 7.

Some asked "why," and others were adamant that something like this would not happen again. "It must not happen again," said Tyrone Moon,

...Boom, gunshot, and another brother's body drops. I ask, when will all this unnecessary killing come to an end? —poem by Rachel Williams

friend of Meyers. "I'd up to us to stand up and seek, or take justice and make sure not another one of our brothers' or sisters' lives be taken by the demon. Because only a demon can shoot somebody down in cold blood like that," said Moon.

In a rousing speech that brought cries of "Amen," and "hail" from mourners, the Rev. Al Sharpton noted that the hardest part has just begun.

"The challenge is not for us to disrespect this family. I say to this community, do not sell out this family; to the students, do not sell out this young man; do not make a mockery of his name by causing riots... We may all grieve, but nobody feels the pain that this mother feels. His father and this family feels. Because no one, no matter what he is accused of should be shot in the back of the head by another. Whether

See CITY MOURNS/Page 6



Rutgers students display sign of support for Meyers. Photo by Steve Green.

Controversy surrounds private school purchase

by Sherry Burrus

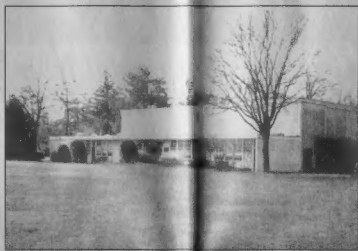
PLAINFIELD—Mayor Mark Fury is attempting to save the City of Plainfield from a possible county invasion by proposing that the City Council and the Plainfield Board of Education join forces to purchase the Wardlaw-Hatridge School.

Plainfield's only private school campus is up for sale by its owners and according to Mayor Fury, who addressed the Board in a brief meeting on Tuesday, February 28, the Union County Educational Services Commission is on the list of prospective buyers, to use the site as an alternative school.

While the Mayor was not available at press time, he was quoted as saying, "If we're going to deal with problems we've got to deal with our own problems, not the problems of 20 different communities."

"You can't avoid spending some money, if you want to improve the standard and the image of the city," said the Mayor.

The Mayor's proposal, which attempts to save the city's already tainted reputation, does not have the



Wardlaw-Hatridge School in Plainfield. Photo by Steve Green.

undivided backing of the City Council and Board members who cautiously say there is still more homework to be done.

City Council President Helen Miller says more work needs to be done but agrees with the Mayor that charity begins at home.

"I think there are still a lot of questions which need to be answered. I would not want to see the neighborhood change nor would I want the new owner to tamper with the historical character of the building. I am very concerned as to what the outcome will be."

Miller continued, "I would rather not see out-of-town residents coming in to the city attending a school when we do have a need for our own children."

The \$3 million price tag attached to the campus is of great concern to council and Board members, even though Fury says he

believes they could purchase the building for \$2 to 2.5 million in a proposed capital improvement budget which he will present to the Planning Board next month.

Board member Veronica DeNoia says because the Board is currently working with a tight budget, they are currently not in any position to jointly buy or lease the land, but DeNoia says the Mayor has stated that the money is available.

"More and more children are coming back to the Plainfield School system and we must find a place that will serve as a good educational environment for them," said DeNoia talking of the trailer site at two elementary schools.

"Plainfield has a tremendous potential and needs to return to its reputation. This would be a good step towards doing that, rather than allowing the property to be used for

See CONTROVERSY/Page 6

Crime bills ignore prevention

by Rep. Carrie P. Meek

Recently 382 elected officials in cities with populations of 100,000 or more were asked what government could do to reduce crime. The top two answers were "support family stability" and "create jobs and targeted economic development."

These responses to a National League of Cities survey illustrate that public officials recognize what many studies have also shown: That crime fighting has more than inflating punishment after crimes have been committed.

So, why then has the Republican-led Congress passed legislation, in recent days, that defies conventional wisdom and works against proven strategies which experts believe will best save our neighborhoods, cities, and states from violent crime.

The new crime bills essentially gut the 1994 Violent Crime Control Act signed into law by the President last year, which provided a balanced approach to reducing crime. The new bills could roll the three grant programs cre-

ated in the 1994 crime law grants—to put 100,000 new police officers on the streets, establish drug courts and to fund prevention programs—into a single, \$1 billion block grant that local officials could spend on virtually any program to reduce crime.

The new crime bills about the 100,000 new police on the streets that the 1994 law promised to place in communities throughout the country. Communities that have already received some policemen will not be getting anymore, and communities that expect to receive additional policemen, under this bill, will not.

The new bills shift about \$2.5 billion away from prevention and enforcement and into prison construction. That would force police hiring and prevention programs to compete with each other at the local level for federal funds.

The new bills also shift all of the crime prevention money, and money for additional police officers, into prison construction grants for states that agree to keep violent offenders See CRIME/ILLUSTRATION 10

Community supports Rutgers students

by Annette Alston

NEWARK—Support for Rutgers students in protest of racist remarks made by Rutgers President, Francis Lawrence late last year was shown during a press conference called by the People's Organization for Progress (POP) on March 28.

"We believe these students have shown tremendous moral courage by taking a stand against President Lawrence's overtly racist remarks," says Lawrence Hamm, chairman of POP.

Hamm is concerned about the students becoming a target for reprisals by the university administration.

"We believe that it is vital that our young heroes and heroines be protected and honored. We are serving notice to the administration that we will be watching."

POP was joined by a host of other organizations expressing support.

Rutgers Alumnae, King Downing, an Attorney and representative of the Council for the Heritage of Africans in Newark, feels that current events are just a reflection of Rutgers' discriminatory policies and practices. He cites increases in tuition, draconian cuts in affirmative action programs in spite of a 50 percent black graduation rate and comparatively low enrollment.

"We're on a backward trend rather than advancement," says King. "We're left with no choice but to take his remarks on face value," he continued.

Most organizations present, including Active Citizens for a Better Newark and the Association for Community Employment called for the unconditional resignation of Lawrence.

"If someone tells you we are genetically inferior, then they feel they have a right to treat you a certain way like they did in slavery," says Barbara King, from the Malcolm X Council.

Maxwell Julius of Chairman of Africa Newark feels the governor is setting a stage for a "racial blowout."

"The governor has been coming up with excuses as to why Mr. Lawrence is not a racist," says Juma. He referred to Whitman as spineless for refusing to see a double standard in Lawrence's treatment and Khalid Muhammad.

In spite of the call for Lawrence's resignation, Natalie Bernard of the Black Organization of Students at Rutgers Newark (BOS) stated that her organization is prepared to allow Lawrence to stay if proposed remedies are met.

Some of the demands include restoration of tutoring and mentoring programs, enhancement of the BOS Summer Youth Program and enhancement of SAT preparation courses.

Other remedies include an increased awareness, recruitment and enrollment of black students, the creation of additional scholarships and an increase of black administration and faculty.

Myths about Affirmative action

WASHINGTON, DC—The Rainbow Coalition has convened a broad spectrum of supporters to hold a press conference themed "Affirming Affirmative Action." The National Organization for Women (NOW), Congressman Kwesi Mfume (DMD), former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Katherine Spiller of the Feminist Majority Foundation and others sounded the warning that the Republicans are using Affirmative Action as a 1996 "wedge" issue to divide Americans, and too many Democrats, including President Clinton, are providing a weak defense.

Recently on Sunday news shows, both House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Arney (R-TX) and imminent presidential candidate Phil Buchanan said affirmative action is unnecessary and should be done away with. Newly announced Republican presidential candidate, Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), said his first act as president would be to issue an

executive order ending affirmative action. Senate Majority Leader and unofficial presidential candidate, Senator Robert Dole (R-KS), called for a "review" of all affirmative action programs—only to be joined in that call by President Bill Clinton.

That is like Johnnie Cochran and Bob Shapiro saying to O.J. Simpson, in the middle of his trial, that they are going to "review" his case. In the heat of battle, Mr. Simpson does not need someone to review his case, he needs to be defended by strong defense attorneys.

Obviously, as a general principle, no one is against reviewing public policies and programs. Government programs should be reviewed from time to time. But for President Clinton to suggest reviewing affirmative action in the middle of this political climate and at the start of the 1996 political season—with this president's lack of a moral center and a demonstrated record of political whiffy-

See MYTHS/Page 4

PEOPLE

Washington selected to Bloomfield College Board



Dr. Carrie Washington

BLOOMFIELD—Dr. Carrie Washington, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Newark, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Bloomfield College.

As executive presbyter, Washington provides administrative and pastoral support to the ministers and congregations in Essex County.

A life-long Presbyterian, Dr. Washington was elected as the first black woman and black lay person to serve the church as executive presbyter.



Congressman Donald Payne

Payne named school role model

NEWARK—Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ) has been selected as a positive African-American role model by the students and staff of Eighteenth Avenue School in Newark. The congressman was recently honored at a Black History Month program on Monday, February 27 at the school. As part of the program, third, fourth, and fifth-grade students recited poems and stories on why they selected Payne as their role model. After the assembly program, a small luncheon in Payne's honor was sponsored by the school PTA executive board and parent volunteers.



Gray receives medal from Haitian President Aristide

William H. Gray, III, president of UNCF and former special advisor to President Clinton on Haiti, received the National Medal of Honor for Haiti, from President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. During his role as special advisor, Gray helped president Aristide in resolving critical policy issues.

COPING

WITH DR. CHARLES FAULKNER

I'm giving up on men

Dear Dr. Faulkner,

I am giving up on men and marriage. I am now married to my third husband. The first two marriages didn't work out and my third one is just as bad. I hate my husband and I am going to get a divorce as fast as I can. I really try to be a good wife, tell him how to live the good life, but we end up having arguments all the time. Marriage is miserable and I don't want any more of it. I'm convinced that a good husband is hard to find. — Ms. G., Houston, Texas.

Dear Ms. G,

I can understand your frustration. Today, the average marriage lasts for just two and a half years. However, there are many very happy marriages, and marriage should be a pleasant thing to anticipate.

There could be several reasons for the problems that you have had with marriage. Here are two of the major reasons that certain people find it difficult having happy marriages:

1) They continually select similar kinds of mates over and over again. For instance, they might be quiet and prefer a life full of evenings at home watching television. But they choose partners who are happy only when they are partying at a night club or entertaining a house full of guests. Another example is the individual who hates to argue but who regularly dates (or marries) partners who love a good argument. These incompatible match-ups are always going to end up in unhappiness—even if the individual gets married 10 times. The only solution in this case is to select different, but compatible, mates. If one doesn't know what kind of person is compatible to himself/herself, consult a competent marriage counselor to find out what type of personality will mesh well with theirs.

2) A second possible reason for constant marital failure might be the inflexible nature of the person seeking a mate, or a negative personality trait that makes prospective mates dislike the individual. For instance, if an individual tries to dominate the life of his/her wife or husband, the marriage then becomes a series of arguments and conflicts. Another example is the person who argues about everything. Every potential mate will find this characteristic distasteful. What normal person wants to argue all of the time?

You stated in your letter that you tell your husband how to live "a good life." Is this good life determined solely by your standards or is it the result of discussions between you and your husband? Further, do

See COPING page 10

IRS guide to free tax services

Resources are available to help taxpayers complete their tax forms easily and accurately. For a description of tax services and publications available from the IRS, send for the free publication, *IRS Guide to Free Tax Services* (Item 564 B). To order, send your name, address and item number to: S. James, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009.

Guyana Consulate General receives key to Irvington



Brentnold F.R. Evans, Consulate General of Guyana, (3rd from r) receives the key to the City of Irvington from Mayor Sarah Best (3rd from l) in recognition of Guyana's anniversary/jubilee celebration, looking on are Councilman Beasley (l), Sandra Harte, (2nd from l) founder of the Guyana Association; Charles Harte, (2nd from r) and Councilwoman Jones (r). Photo by Glen Frieson

Community Calendar

MONTH OF MARCH

NEW YORK—1995 NY Flower Show/Lecture series. For more details call 914-421-3219.

PLAINFIELD—"Patterns of Light" art exhibit at Swain Galleries. For more info call 908-756-1707.

WATCHUNG—Salute to women in the Arts exhibit at the Watchung Arts Center. For info call 908-753-0150.

MARCH THRU APRIL 13

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield residents pre-register to receive free government surplus food from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 to 4:30 p.m. evening hours also available on specific days. For more info call 908-753-3519.

MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29

NEWARK—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in the Newark Public Library on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more info call 201-733-7753.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

JERSEY CITY—The Alcohol/Drug Counselor and the Criminal Justice System program at Jersey City State College. For info call 201-200-3089.

MARCH 11, 18, 25

NEWARK—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program Saturdays in the Newark Public Library from 9 a.m. to noon. For info call 201-733-7753.

BEGINNING TUESDAY, MARCH 7

CRANFORD—Six-week course covering various legal topics at the People's Law School at Union County College on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. For info call 800-967-0069.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

RUTHERFORD—Tickets (\$8.50) for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and

Bailey Circus show at the Meadowlands are available through the City of Newark Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. For more info call 201-733-3749.

NEWARK—Orphan of AIDS-Bridging the Information Gap, public forum on aspects of care-planning for children of parents with HIV/AIDS at Prudential from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. For more info call 201-463-6251.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

PLAINFIELD—"Own your Home" public meeting at the Cross of Life Lutheran Church, 1240 E. 7th St., between 7 and 9 p.m.

PLAINFIELD—PSE&G End of Moratorium Workshop, to make citizens aware of their rights as PSE&G customers in the City Hall Annex from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info call 908-753-3528.

NOW THRU MARCH 9

POMONA—Print Portfolio: The Print and The Photographic Image exhibit on display in the Stockton College Art Gallery. For info call 609-662-1776.

MARCH 9, 10

EDISON—"New Paradigms for a New Economy" conference theme at PSE&G. For more info and to register call 201-871-8189.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

BRIDGEWATER—Second Annual Sports Auction at the Bridgewater Sports Arena from 7 to 11 p.m. For more info call 201-331-1400.

MARCH 10, 26

BROOKLYN—Dance Theater of Harlem return to Brooklyn Academy of Music. For info call 212-307-4100.

NOW THRU MARCH 10

WOODBRIDGE—New Art Group, art exhibit at the Barron Art Center. For time and more info call 908-634-0413.

MARCH 10, 11

WAYNE—"Facing History and Ourselves: Becoming Familiar with the NJ State Holocaust and Genocide Education Mandate" workshop at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-955-2436.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

TUNE IN—Great Performances: Carnegie Hall Opening 1994 will air on channel 13 at 9 p.m.

TUNE IN—Hispanic Americans: The New Frontier will air on WYNY at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK—"Surviving or Thriving? The Status of Women Custodians Today" women's history program at Museum of the City of New York. For more info call 212-593-6310.

WAYNE—"JFK Assassination: Is the Case Closed?" seminar at William Paterson College from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 201-955-2966.

MARCH 11 THRU APRIL 8

CRANFORD—"Writing for Film and Television" course offered Saturdays at Union County College at 11 a.m. For more info call 908-709-7000.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

PLAINFIELD—"Own your Home" public meeting at the El Centro (at United Presbyterian Church), 525 East Front St., between 7 and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

MONTCLAIR—"Improving Parent/Child Communications" workshop at Montclair State University from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info call 201-655-4363.

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NATIONAL NEWS at a glance

■ Black family income has not grown since '69

According to government figures released last week, when inflation is considered, the average income of African-American families has not risen in nearly 25 years. The Census Bureau looked at the period from 1969 to 1993, during which time, the real inflation-adjusted income of African-American families remained stagnant while that of white families rose by nine percent. Currently one-third of black families live in poverty and since poorer men appear to be benefiting from these efforts. The report found that black women with college degrees now earn 95 cents for every dollar earned by white women with college degrees. At the other end of the spectrum, the poorest black families are those headed by single black women. Black families headed by women rose from 28 percent in 1970 to 46 percent in 1994.

—WASHINGTON, DC

■ Mike Tyson coming out swinging

Former Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson is scheduled for release from the Indiana Youth Center on March 25. Current World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation Champion George Foreman says he wants to fight Tyson after he is released from prison. Foreman, who recaptured the heavyweight title last November said he's heard Tyson would like to fight him and would be happy to take the challenge. Such a fight would generate millions. Foreman is a 46-year-old who has recreated himself as a fighter after a shell of 10 years. Others say they'd like to take on Tyson include Oliver McColl, who holds the World Boxing Council title and Herbie Hide, who is holder of the newly created World Boxing Organization title.

—INDIANA

■ Foster labels opponents 'white right wing extremists'

President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General-Henry W. Foster came out swinging last week against those white conservatives who have mounted a massive campaign against his nomination. Speaking at Nashville's First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, Foster suggested that his opponents were radicals saying to the congregation, "I ask for your help and prayers in working with me to fight the latest attacks from white right-wing extremists that are using my nomination to achieve their radical goals." The opposition to Foster is coming from conservative and anti-abortion activists. Foster, who is black, supports a woman's right to an abortion. The White House maintained its support for Foster but tried to distance itself from Foster's suggestion that those leading the attacks against him were racists.—NASHVILLE, TN

■ Government aid programs participation up 8.4 percent

According to the Census Bureau, an average of about 30.9 million persons participated in major means-tested (income qualification) government programs during an average month in 1991. Of the assistance programs considered, the Medicaid and food stamp programs had the highest average monthly participation in 1990 at 19.1 and 17.1 million persons, respectively. The report pointed out that the median length of time that persons received housing assistance was 15.6 months; Medicaid 10.6 months; food stamps 8.8 months; and Aid to Families with Dependent Children 10.4 months. The report shows that 61 percent of major assistance program participants were white, 34 percent were African American and 18 percent were of Hispanic origin. Only 8 percent of the white population participated in means-tested programs, but over 32 percent of African Americans and 25 percent of Hispanics participated.

—WASHINGTON, DC

■ Price of child-rearing is high

The latest government estimate is that it takes approximately \$217,000 to raise a child from birth through 18 years of age.

—WASHINGTON, DC

NATION

A hands-up for Africa

by Rev. Leon Sullivan

Africa is the forgotten continent in economic and world trade agreements. With a population of five hundred million and an expected growth to one billion by the early part of the next century, except for South Africa, Africa stands economically isolated and alone from the rest of the world.

Only when it comes to famine, disaster and widespread atrocities and death, does the world seem to care about Africa. This is especially true for businesses and human development.

As a banker friend said not too long ago, "Leon, when we come together to talk about investments and loans, Africa isn't even on the list." This omittance must change while there is still opportunity and time. Africa stands at the crossroads.

Either Africa will move more forthrightly in the direction of democracy, economic stability and free markets and become a principal player in the commercial and economic development growth of the world, or more and more we will see the young and the poor nations dragged down by massive debt that will never be repaid, deepening poverty, lack of education and jobs, and we will watch Africa go in the direction of greater division, violence and more Rwandas and Somalis.

For the sake of Africa's peace and progress and Africa's importance as the second largest continent in the world, America and others must see Africa in a new light. Many still think of Africa as a back and backward place. A land of alligators, monkeys, savages and Tarzans. They do not see the potential of a great and emerging continent with the world's richest natural resources and the productive capability to stand equal with the rest of the world.

Exciting things are happening in Africa. There is a developing and surging desire on the part of Africans to improve their condition and their nations. A thirst for education is everywhere.

I have seen African boys and girls walk 20 miles each way to school to learn a skill to become more productive. All that Africans need now is the education, the technical assistance, the encouragement and the supporting resources and they will do the rest to develop their countries faster than many think. What others have done, Africa can do too.

There is talk about cutting back on American Foreign Aid to Africa and eliminating the Agency for International Development (AID) and the Development Fund for Africa. This would be unwise. It is especially important at this time that foreign aid, from America, for Africa not be diminished but that

support be increased. You don't destroy something that has been helpful because some parts of it go wrong. Rather, you strengthen and keep what you have that works and remove the problems that exist by requiring better performance and accountability.

In spite of some failed programs, foreign assistance for Africa is working. I have seen the good being done across the continent. Children are being helped, people are being educated and lives are being saved. Thanks to American aid, thousands and thousands of African youth are being trained and placed in jobs; large numbers now have their own businesses; and many have become leaders in their own governments. These kinds of efforts and others like them must not stop. They are a life-line for Africa's development.

Only seven percent of United States' foreign aid goes to Sub-Saharan Africa, a minuscule amount compared with the United States' support for other parts of the world. American assistance to Africans is less than \$2 per year for every man, woman and child, compared to as much as \$3,000 for each citizen of other supported nations.

Africa is the poorest continent in the world and the most ravaged, plundered and neglected. Greater attention to Africa must be given. United States' support for Africa is no gift. America and other nations for centuries

took away from Africa its people, its wealth and it is time that America and the world put something back.

More support from the AID should go to Africa. Give Africa a bigger piece of the pie. And, the AID should be kept independent for transparency and accountability to help the poor of the world, and not be divided up and relegated to some bureaucratic departmental controlled hinterland, where American foreign assistance, instead of helping the most needy, will be used to support projects, programs and nations for narrow political and ideological purposes, and with the truly distressed places like Africa placed even further back on the rear burner of American foreign assistance.

Greater efforts must be made by the American government to use African Americans in the implementation of AID projects. There are those who do not want this involvement to happen.

For instance, there is a belief among some that reverse discrimination is being practiced in the issuance of grants to American black NGOs for projects in South Africa. When the fact is, that blacks have been left out of AID assisted projects in South Africa throughout the years because of the discrimination caused by Apartheid, and

See AFRI/CA page 10

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YOUTH BEAT

KIDS CALENDAR

ATTENTION

WESTFIELD—Registration for Camp Hoover for girls grades 2-12 takes place at the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council. For more info call 908-235-3236.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

NEWARK—NJ Community Water Watch will conduct environmental presentations at Ann Street School at 4:30 p.m. For more info call 201-648-5021.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

PLAINFIELD—Registration for the Plainfield Babe Ruth Baseball League for boys and girls ages 5-15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Masson Middle School. For more info contact Greg McCray at 908-756-1486 or Jeanette Goodson at 201-740-4040.

MONTCLAIR—"Gulliver's Travels" will be presented at Montclair Kimberly Academy at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. For info call 201-744-1717.

MARCH 11, 25

JERSEY CITY—Math Strategies for Grade 5-8 workshop Saturdays at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

JERSEY CITY—"Saturday Art Workshop I: Fantasy Furniture" at Jersey City State College from 9 to 11 a.m. For info call 201-200-3089.

MARCH 11, 12

NEW YORK—Children are invited to make a pair of colorful slippers that can be worn at the Children's Museum of the Arts. Workshops start every hour between noon and 3 p.m. For info call 212-274-0986.

NOW THRU MARCH 12

RUTHERFORD—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will appear at the Meadowlands Arena. For tickets call 201-807-8900.

MARCH 15-21

LONG ISLAND—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will appear at the Nassau Coliseum. For tickets call 201-507-8900 or 212-307-7171.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

WESTFIELD—Educational and hands on workshops offered by the Union County 4-H Youth Program for children ages 7 to 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rutgers. For more info call 908-654-9854.



Gore and Graves congratulate Pepsi essay contest winners

Erica Counts, a senior at Bishop McNamara High school in Forestville, Maryland, and one of 15 winners of a Pepsi-Cola essay contest is congratulated by Vice President Al Gore (r) and Earl G. Graves, Chairman and CEO of Pepsi-Cola of Washington, D.C., and publisher of *Black Enterprise Magazine*. Contestants wrote on the topic "How Does the Portrayal of African Americans in the Media Impact One's Life?" Counts plans to study science at Hampton University. Vice President Gore urged the students to take a part in helping to create the social changes they want to see. Photo courtesy of Pepsi.

What do you do when stopped by the police?

NEWARK—"The cops came around and asked my friends and me why we were standing in front of this house. We were angry and insulted that they just stopped to ask us this question, so one of my friends starting talking back to the cop and he ended up getting roughed up. What should we have done?" asked one NULITER from the Urban League's youth program.

"What Do You Do When Stopped By The Police?" was the topic discussed at a workshop held by the Urban League of Essex County for its NULITES (National Urban League Incentives To Excel and Succeed) youth leadership program participants on February 6. This topic has been of great concern to our youths who must deal with the often strained and sometimes deadly relationship between young black teens and the police.

Invited speakers included Jerome Hamlin, special project coordinator and L. Louis Jordan, chief bias officer both from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's

Office, and Attorney Raymond L. Hamlin.

The speakers focused on typical police procedures, how to handle being stopped by the police, the black police officer's perspective in an urban community and citizen's rights.

"It is very important to know why teens should stay calm in a highly sensitive situation," said Ann Marie Benderson, youth services coordinator.

NULITES youths learned about the legality of police procedures, why people get stopped or arrested, what is considered suspicious activity and what can turn a routine procedure into a deadly situation.

Many NULITES voiced their opinions about not being treated fairly even if they are obeying the law, racial bias, and police brutality and harassment.

"Being cooperative could make the confrontation less stressful and ultimately less costly in legal fees. Growing up in an environment where police officers may or may not be our community partners, our

teens must understand how to handle being stopped by the police whether it is fair or not. If a teen is stopped by the police, that is not the time to deal with fairness, harassment, or racial bias. Advocacy is left for another time," continued Ms. Benderson.

NULITES president Shakena Appiah, commented that "teenagers need to understand what a police officer's limits are and what actions teens should or should not take, for example we should be cooperative and non threatening. Also, you should not talk unless you have a lawyer present. Teens must be careful when confronted by the police because officers have control at that specific moment and your behavior could save your life."

The workshop is the first of a two-part series on Law Enforcement. The second workshop, which will involve Essex County Prosecutor's Office, will focus on careers in law enforcement from police officer to prosecutor.

BOOKWORM & THE AFROCENTRIC KIDS™



story by Greg Marshhead
artwork by Darnell Bradley

TO BE CONTINUED...
Look for BOOKWORM & THE AFROCENTRIC KIDS™
to find out how Sepia deals with her sticky situation.

If Michael is lost, Rickie will help him find a way home.

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CHILDWATCH™
We're Tuned In... to You and Your's.

Rickie Fant is here to help. So are all 6,000 of our field personnel. If your child gets lost, and there are no emergency or police officers nearby, tell him or her to look for one of our vans or trucks. We'll radio for help.

The power is in your hands.

Religious Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

MADISON—Religious Life in Newark symposium at the Craig Chapel in Summit Hall on Drew University at 10 a.m. For more info call 201-408-4300.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

IRVINGTON—Prayer Breakfast to kick-off establishment of exploratory committee for Craig Stanley at Irvington Manor. Guest speaker will be Rev. Reginald Jackson of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church of Orange. Breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. Irvington High School Gospel Choir will perform. For ticket info call 201-441-4219.

MARCH 11, AND 25

WAYNE—Wayne Presbyterian Church hosts a social, discussion and games at 10 p.m. For more info call 201-908-0333.

MARCH 17-19

LINCROFT—Pegasus Production Company of Christian Brothers Academy presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at 8 p.m. (matinee at 2 p.m. on 19) at the Henderson Theater. For more info call 908-756-1118.

MARCH 23-25

LINCROFT—Pegasus Production Company of Christian Brothers Academy presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at 8 p.m. at the Henderson Theater. For more info call 908-756-1118.

Focusing on crime prevention

EAST ORANGE—The "Stop the Violence—Unity in the Community," youth crime prevention program in East Orange's Fifth Ward is the topic of Mayor Cardell Cooper's monthly television program focus: East Orange. Juanita Mohamed, a member of the Ampere Neighborhood Preservation Program Organization and EO Police Officer Tyrone Reynolds will discuss the crime prevention program in the first segment. Community leaders Jean Maurice and Darrel Hartsfield will discuss options for residents who want to become actively involved in their community.

The show will air on Suburban Cablevision, Channel 3 on March 13 at 5:30 p.m.

AAA takes the scare out of auto repair

FLORHAM PARK—If you have ever had car trouble, you have probably had at least one run-in with a dishonest mechanic. Well AAA has found a way to make auto repair experiences less frightening than they are.

According to Rick Town, assistant vice president of the automotive services for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club the organization has introduced a new Approved Auto Repair (AAR) program.

"By identifying auto repair facilities with high service standards, technical competency and business integrity, AAA's AAR program helps restore confidence in the auto repair industry while giving consumers

peace of mind."

Triple A is now taking applications from area service facilities to participate in the AAR program. Each facility that applies for AAR status must meet strict standards, which include having knowledgeable personnel who hold Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications; clean, well-maintained facilities; proper equipment and tools; and a superior customer service and satisfaction rating.

Approved facilities will display the Triple A Approved Auto Repair sign which will assure motorists they're dealing with a repair shop that has met AAA's standards.

Consumers will also be provided additional assurances — written estimates, replaced parts and a 90-day or 4,000 mile warranty on all work performed. Most importantly, the AAR facility must agree to abide by AAA's decision in resolving any disputes involving AAA members.

"The written estimate is extremely important," said Mike McQuoid, program coordinator of AAR. "The final bill the customer receives from the AAR facility can't exceed the estimate by more than 10 percent unless the customer has authorized it in writing."

Also available to consumers is a free

brochure entitled Taking the Scare out of Auto Repair, which can be obtained by writing to Triple A at 1 Hanover Rd., Florham Park, NJ 07932-1888.

men like this, I want to be... I want to attend their... I want to see them walk... the aisle and say 'God bless you man.'"

One funeral attendant who did not know Meyers, but his... and he attended the funeral because he did not like the way boy was killed.

"I have seen it with my own eyes, how the cops run over these kids with their guns so many times for no reason."

The man said once such incidents happened two weeks before Meyers was shot.

"I was by my house on 19th when three cops jumped out at me, pulled their guns and ran some kids, threw them against wall and frisked them. They found nothing, but they had guns drawn. I wanted to my... and said, 'Somebody is going to be killed yet.'"

City mourns

(Continued from page 1)

they be in blue jeans or blue uniform."

The day was declared a drug-free day by East Side High school students. However, the Rev. Edward Eddings, pastor of the Paterson Evangelical center, told the students that one day was not enough, and they should take every day to rid their neighborhood of drugs.

"Drug-free today, is not enough. If you want to make it, you've got to be drug-free today, and tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day. You can't give the police no reason to say let's get them. This brought applause from the crowd and cheers of "that's right."

Many people who knew Meyers said he was a quiet kid who loved basketball, had many friends and was a member of two churches. One of those friends, the Rev. Kenneth Shaw of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church where Meyers was a member, said he will miss the boy.

This past Sunday's service was dedicated to Lawrence as our way of remembering him. I first met Lawrence when he was playing basketball here, as he so did throughout the years at the YMCA, and YWCA."

The Rev. stated that Meyers had a love for basketball and it

showed in his playing. "Many experienced difficulty in matching Lawrence's basketball skills," he said.

Another of Meyers' friends, Rachel Williams had to be held while she read from a poem that she wrote after he died.

"...Boom, gunshot, and another body drops. I ask, when will all this unnecessary killing come to an end? How much longer do we say to each other, be strong. Why do we have to look to our memories to see the ones we love...?"

The tension was tight, and so was the security, which was provided by members of Black Corps Against Police Brutality and the Nation of Islam.

Outside, Paterson police had the street blocked off in an anticipation of a riot. However, that was not the most important thought of the day, Lawrence Meyers was the thought on everyone's mind.

An uncle of Meyers' said he can't believe that his nephew is gone.

"It was last Monday that I saw Lawrence. Me, him and one of his brothers were talking, we were fun. Lawrence was talking about education and Christ. He would want all of you kids to get your education. He would tell you that if he were here."

Students from Rutgers Univer-

sity showed their support for the family by displaying a sign that read "Justice for Lawrence" from Rutgers to Paterson, rise up." Another sign, displaying on Yellow cloth with red writing read, "Today we bury Lawrence Meyers, tomorrow we bury the system that killed him."

The sermon given by Rev. Eddings was delivered like a bolt of lightning. On many instances, he was interrupted with shouts of "Amen," "preach," and thunderous applause and standing ovations.

He criticized not only the police force, for the conditions in the city, but also the city council members.

"For years I have been begging you Negroes downtown to do something about this city," said the reverend. "Don't blame the mayor or the police. We need money to provide job training for youth, but you do nothing..."

Controversy

(Continued from page 1)

a purpose that isn't advantageous to our community," added DeNoia.

According to Board President Cory Storck, there is an over-riding committee who is analyzing the current options to address the overcrowding. The options would include reconfiguring the elementary schools, reconfiguring the grades, or adding additional space. They have also hired a demographer to do enrollment projections.

"The Board needs time to analyze its needs, but its possible that the property could be useful to us. We are very interested in it," says Storck.

Councilman-at-Large Jerome Kirkland who was strongly in favor of the proposal, as it was part of his platform during his election, also questioned where the funding would come from, despite DeNoia's comment, and newspaper reports in which the Mayor stated the funding was there.

"It would not be a bad idea for us to explore the feasibility by working along with the Board to purchase the facility," says Kirkland. "We need to hear what the Mayor will propose in his budget to show we can purchase the facility."

Not everyone embraced the idea on a whole. Councilwoman Donna Vose did not believe it was top priority for the City of Plainfield because the city already faces numerous financial problems. Vose says that purchasing the facility would mean cutting funds from some other program.

"I think the cost of acquiring it, plus the cost of demolition will probably make the cost prohibited for Plainfield. When you say the funds are there you must consider anytime you buy something, you for go something else," Vose said.

Coping

(Continued from page 2)

become angry when your husband challenge your idea about the good life? The purpose of my questions is to find out if you are being too inixial, and even domineering. Only you and a marriage counselor

can answer that question, however. I have heard men say that a good woman is hard to find, and I have heard women say the opposite. Yet, I know many "good" men and women who have found one another, and who are experiencing

happy marriages.

The question of, of course, What constitutes a "good" woman? In the average man there is only compatibility or incompatibility. Not good or evil.

Need a mortgage or refinancing on a low to moderate income? The Mighty Hudson can save you thousands of dollars.

Hudson City Savings Bank has a long standing tradition of concern for the people in the communities it serves, including those with low to moderate incomes. This

can now work to your advantage if you apply for your mortgage or refinancing at Hudson City Savings Bank.

The Mighty Hudson, New Jersey's largest savings bank, now offers qualified applicants a no point, 30 year fixed rate at special low rates. With as little as 10% down, you can borrow to a maximum of \$100,000 to purchase or refinance a 1 to 4 family owner occupied dwelling in one of the counties shown in the listing

below. Private mortgage insurance (PMI) is required on loans over 80% of our appraised value. Annual Percentage Rate will be slightly higher if PMI is required.

To make it even easier to gain approval, Hudson City will apply less rigid qualifying standards and lack of an established credit history will not disqualify you — provided, of course, you can prove your credit worthiness and ability to repay the debt.

To apply, phone the Mortgage Origination Department at 201-967-1900 or 609-428-2740. Your new home may be just a phone call away!



TO QUALIFY, APPLICANT'S INCOME CANNOT EXCEED THE FIGURES LISTED BELOW FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY YOU INTEND TO PURCHASE IS LOCATED.

Bergen	\$42,160	Middlesex	\$43,680
Burlington	33,120	Monmouth	36,320
Camden	33,120	Morris	39,520
Essex	39,520	Ocean	36,320
Gloucester	33,120	Passaic	42,160
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Warren	\$30,880		

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Health Calendar

ATTENTION—Parents Anonymous group meetings (for those with parenting problems) at various sites in Essex County. For more info call 800-943-5377.

EVERY SATURDAY

WEST ORANGE—The Northern NJ Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, sponsors a free seminar program at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Carol or Laurie at 201-984-6667.

BELLEVILLE—Group meetings for those with eating disorders (family and friends welcome) at 2 p.m. For more info call 908-281-1422.

TUESDAYS, MARCH 7 — APRIL 11

SCOTCH PLAINS—Six seminars, "Celebrating Creativity with Older Adults, Able and Disabled" will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7600.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

PURCHASE, NY—The Volunteers Center's Third Annual Human Race Kick-Off Breakfast at the PepsiCo World Headquarters from 8:30 to 10 a.m. For info, call 914-948-4452.

Health Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

NEWARK—Discuss Uterine fibroids and treatment options with Dr. Nanette Santoro from the Center for Family and Reproductive Medicine in room 7600 at 10 a.m. For more info or to register call 1-800-982-DOCS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

NEWARK—HIV/AIDS Forum and public hearing at the Municipal Council Chambers from 9 a.m. to noon. For info call 201-733-3850.

NOW THRU MARCH 11

TRENTON—Save Your Vision Week. For a free copy of a brochure on family eye care during the entire month of March call 809-695-3456.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

MILLBURN—Seminar discussing the rights and options pertaining to living wills and health care proxies will be held at Cancer Care. For more info or to register call 201-379-7500.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

IRVINGTON—Community High Blood Pressure Control Program, sponsored by the Dept. of Health's Nursing Division, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Health Calendar

at the Municipal Building Square Plaza.

IRVINGTON—Community High Blood Pressure Control Program, sponsored by the Dept. of Health's Nursing Division, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Senior Citizens Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 201-965-6652.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

BELLE MEAD—Third annual A. Kraft medical symposium. Carrier Foundation from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For info call 908-281-200-3157.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

JERSEY CITY—"Infection and Barrier Precautions" could licensed health care professionals. Jersey City State College from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more info call 200-3157.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

NEWARK—Discuss the role of antioxidants in the prevention of chronic disease at The J. Smith, M.D., Lectureship at the Medical Science Building UMDNJ. For more info call John Boggs at 201-982-5425.



ARTZ WEDNESDAY

BILLBOARD

PLAINFIELD—Casting auditions will be held at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield for beginners, males and females, ages teens to seventies and two experienced actresses. For more info, call 908-474-4725 days or 908-751-7787 evenings.

WEDNESDAYS

NEW YORK—Amateur Night at the Apollo at 7:30 p.m., audience participation, special guest hosts and ticket giveaways. For more info call 212-664-0372.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

WESTBURY—Cameo, Teena Marie and the Gap Band at Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info call 516-333-0800.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

NEW YORK—The Bill Perry Blues Band will appear at Manny's Car Wash. For more info call 212-369-BLUES.

NEW YORK—Tito Puente conducts The All-Star Lincoln Center Latin Jazz Orchestra at Tully Hall. For more info call 212-721-6500.

MARCH 10, 11

ATLANTIC CITY—Paul Anka live at the Grand Resort. For more info and times call 609-340-2600.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

SOUTH BELMAR—Classic Jazz featuring Frankie Lee at Jassons at 9, 10:30 and 12 p.m. For more info call 908-681-1416.

MARCH 11 THRU APRIL 9

NEW BRUNSWICK—"Harriet's Return," a play about Harriet Tubman, will appear at the Crossroads Theatre. For more info call 908-249-5560.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

NEW YORK—"The Long Black Walk" will be performed at 3 p.m. at the S. Smith's Rooftop Cafe. For more info call 212-925-0104.

MARCH 13-18

NEW YORK—Pianist Jane Jarvis and Frank Tate will be at Zorro Bar Restaurant. For more info call 212-924-5182.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

WESTBURY—Harry Belafonte comes to the Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info call 516-334-0800.

NEWARK—Evening Coffee House, featuring the vocals of Jasmine from 5 to 7 p.m. on the Second Level Forum of Essex County College.

MARCH 17 THRU APRIL 9

METUCHEN—"Two By Two" a play about Noah's Ark will be at the "Fountain Theatre at 8 p.m. (Matinee available Wed. and Sat.) For more info call 908-548-0582.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

NEW YORK—Live jazz and tap dance, featuring the Hardboiled Trio, at Alice Tully Hall (Lincoln Center) at 8 p.m. For more info call 212-721-6500.

SOUTH BELMAR—Classic Jazz featuring Sonny Rhodes & Johnny Clyde Copeland at Jassons at 8:30 and 11 p.m. For more info call 908-681-1416.

NEW YORK—"Little Boats & The Soul Brothers" will appear at Manny's Car Wash. For more info call 212-369-BLUES.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

WESTBURY—Russ Freeman and The Rippingtons and the Yellowjackets (Jazz) at Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info call 516-333-0800.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

NEWARK—"Imitations," imitations of your favorite celebrities, at 7 p.m. in the Mary Burch Theater at Essex County College. Tickets are \$5 students, \$8 public and \$10 at door.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

NEW YORK—Wynton Marsalis will present "Jazz for Young People" at the Alice Tully Hall. For more info call 718-622-7171.

MARCH 24, 25

WESTBURY—Julio Iglesias returns to Westbury Music Fair. For more info call 516-334-0800.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

SOUTH BELMAR—Classic Jazz featuring Sammy Davis and Michelle Slim at Jassons at 9, 10:30 and 12 p.m. For more info call 908-681-1416.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WATCHUNG—Singer/songwriter Virginia Wagner makes her debut at the Watchung Arts Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-753-0190.

APRIL 6 AND 10

NEW YORK—Third Annual American Swing Dance Championships locations change daily. For more info call 1-800-64-SWING.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WESTBURY—The O'Jays and The Whispers will be at Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info call 516-334-0800.

APRIL 14 THRU JULY 9

NEW YORK—Photographs by Nadar, the celebrated portraitist of the mid-19th century Paris will be on display at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more information call 212-707-3951.



A new public television series, *Discovering Women*, follows North Carolina A&T biochemist Lynda Jordan (l) as she unravels the mystery of a key human enzyme. Harvard Medical School molecular biologist Lydia Yilla-smarrhoff (c) races to break scientific ground in the understanding of brain development. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer (r) narrates *Discovering Women*.

Discovering Women

BOSTON—Women make up 50 percent of the population, almost half the work force—but they are a bare 16 percent of scientists and engineers. There has been almost no progress at all in the last 50 years in increasing the percentages of women in key

fields like physics, mathematics, and engineering. This becomes a self-perpetuating problem. Because there are so few women, their scientific lives are largely unknown and perhaps even untenable to the young women who will be needed for the next

generation of scientists.

A new six-part public television documentary series, *Discovering Women* with its major educational outreach program, was designed to help address this problem. Narrated by actress Michelle Pfeiffer, *Discovering*

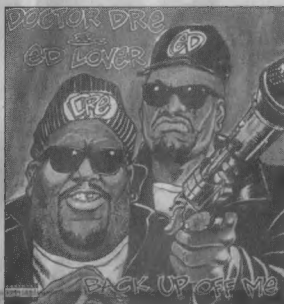
Women reveals the excitement as well as the challenges faced by contemporary women scientists. The series will air on three successive Monday nights starting March 27, April 3, and April 10, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings).

Ed Lover & Doctor Dre release new single & video

NEW YORK, NY—Ed Lover and Doctor Dre are set to release the second single from their Relativity debut LP, *Back Up Off Me*. The single, *For The Love Of You*, produced by Orlando-based hip hop production crew, Jolly Stomper Productions and co-produced by Franklin Grand, will hit the streets on March 21. The video for the single was shot in two locations: Ed Lover's ancestral home in Hollis, Queens, and at Derrick Coleman's (NJ

Nets superstar) house.

Meanwhile, Ed and Dre's HOT 97 radio show is New York City's #1 morning music show. This is an amazing feat, especially considering the station was #6 in the marketplace prior to the hip hop duo's coming on board a little over a year ago (HOT 97, "where hip hop lives" is currently #2 in the marketplace following oldies station, WGBS).



AHN classics

(Continued from page 1)

Blues will air on Monday, March 20 at midnight.

"Uptown Saturday Night was very important to the careers of both my longtime friends Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier," said Ossie Davis. "In addition to the film's tremendous popularity in the African-American Community, it was also a large crossover hit."

"This made the film a milestone in Cosby's journey to the center of the American culture. And Poitier, in addition to flexing his muscles as an outstanding director, relished in the opportunity to relinquish the always perfect and polished image that had until then, been the hallmark of his Academy Award winning career," Davis said.

Uptown Saturday night stars Cosby and Poitier two team up to recapture a winning lottery ticket stolen by gangsters at an after-hours gambling joint. Co-stars include Harry Belafonte, Richard Pryor, Flip Wilson, Rosalind Cash and

Roscoe Lee Brown.

"Like many other films of the early seventies Come Back Charleston Blue, shows our heroes fighting to stop the villains from selling drugs in the community. The film is funny and fast-paced, yet its message is more sophisticated than it pretends to be," said Ruby Dee.

Come Back Charleston Blue stars Cambridge and St. Jacques as two brave and daring New York detectives who patrol the streets of Harlem with style, finesse and non-stop laughter.

"If you like slyly but action-packed detective comedies, [this] has all the necessary elements," said Davis.

AHN's series of the Month series is the first and only feature film package which focuses on movies showcasing African-American actors, producers and directors since movie making began. AHN airs in 92 markets across the country.

Myths

(Continued from page 4)

crimination has warranted a conservative remedy—affirmative action (reparations are true to America's history—e.g., Western Europe, Japan and Israel). Those who have been locked out through negative action need affirmative action laws to protect them from both a discriminatory legacy and continuing discrimination. We need not be race neutral, but racially inclusive. We need not be color and gender blind, but color and gender caring.

Myth #3: Affirmative action has hurt people of color, women and the nation. Affirmative action has benefited the entire nation. It has benefited corporations—we have the strongest and most diversified work force in the world. It has benefited families—allowing two-wage earner households. It has benefited minorities (African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans), older Americans and the disabled. It has helped to create a new middle class.

Myth #4: Affirmative action is no longer needed. We cannot fall prey to the innate notion that discrimination is an evil of the past. It is a very real reality today. While Affirmative Action has diversified and improved the

American workforce and its centers of higher learning, as a nation we still have a long way to go.

If the president conducts a full public review, he and the country will find empirical proof that when the law is removed or not enforced we return to our old ways and our old habits. Since the Croson decision, minority contracting in the City of Richmond, Virginia has gone from 35 percent to 1 percent—i.e., to pre-affirmative action levels.

When the president reviews lending practices, he will find that access to capital and credit are denied to women and people of color because lending decisions are private, subjective and arbitrary. Unless there are laws that are strongly enforced, with a plan that includes goals and timetables, the traditionally locked-out will never gain access to capital.

Upon completion of his review, we urge the president to renew his commitment to affirmative action and strong enforcement of the law. We hope he will make the EEOC and the OFCC visible agencies and forces for good. The falsely accused need protection, hope and opportunity, not scapegoating, divisiveness and undue blame.

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Africa

(Continued from page 3)

blacks in South Africa are now asking for African Americans to provide greater developmental leadership in South Africa under the new government.

Because it is believed that African Americans can do a more effective job in relating to black South Africans in providing the necessary motivation for self-help, and self-improvement, and learning among the black population. African Americans must be included more in the delivery of AID assisted programs to Africa.

Not to the exclusion of others, because this would be discriminatory; but let AID assisted projects to Africa in the future reflect greater participation of African Americans, and their more significant involvement for the benefit of African people.

And greater assistance to Africa is a good investment. It is in America's interest, financially and otherwise to help Africa. If Africa is not given greater support for education, training, health and business development, many of the fledgling, weak and struggling countries will, in time, fall into chaos, and billions from Africa will be spent in military intervention and humanitarian aid, and in future years, there will be the loss of many African lives. As the moral and economic leader of the world, and with 40 million citizens of African descent, America should lead the lead to see that aid for Africa is not left as a bottom of the foreign assistance barrel. America has an obligation to help Africa. America would not be what it is today without African Americans. America can do better for Africa.

Africa is a land of opportunity. An entire continent is waiting to be developed. There is business to be done and money to be made for both Africa and America. There are cities to be expanded and built, a need for roads, electrification, telecommunication systems, irrigation, food production, factories, schools, hospitals, environmental programs, tourism and unlimited investment opportunities, all leading to the creation of untold numbers of new businesses and jobs for Africa, America and elsewhere.

And prospects are now especially bright with the technical and other assistance from the new, free South Africa. By helping Africa to become strong and competitive, America helps itself with more jobs, more trade, more business, a greater availability of natural resources for industrial and military needs, and a closer tie to a valuable and pivotal geographic region in a volatile, dangerous and politically unsettled world. Things change. In the future, as unbelievable as it may now seem, Africa can be as important to American foreign interest as Europe and the Middle East.

More and more African nations, once saddled by colonialism, some by Communism, and some by heavy dictatorial and selfish rule, are supporting open, free

market principles and the promotion of democracy, human rights and democratic values. This is the time for America to show its economic and moral strength to help with the development of a struggling continent that is striving to rise and move ahead. It is a challenge for America that must not pass.

African Americans have an important direct role to play in Africa's future, in addition to greater assistance by the United States' government. The time has come for African Americans to join with Africans in "self-help" to assist with the needs of Africa. Black Americans have more professionally trained people and have more financial resources than all where blacks continue in Africa and the rest of the world.

As the Jew helps Israel, as the Polish helps Poland, as the Irish helps Ireland, so African Americans must help Africa with schools, teachers, doctors, nurses, architects, lawyers, engineers and investments, and in any way that can, work hand in hand with Africans in the development of Africa.

It is our aim at the Third African-American Summit to be held in May in Dakar, Senegal, to help make this "Help for Africa," a reality, and to engage thousands, even millions of African Americans and friends of Africa to become partners in the development of Africa's poorest countries in education, health, food and jobs on a scale that has never been attempted. At this Summit, to bring Africa to the forefront of American and world attention.

There is something more of great importance for America in this effort. Greater attention to Africa by America will help with the building of greater self-pride among many African-American youth who have had little knowledge of their past through the years, and have been brainwashed into believing they are inferior and less capable than others.

If you don't know where you came from, you will not know where you are going and you will not believe in yourself. For America, building more jails without building more pride is not the answer to our youth problems.

But for African-American youth with a heightened knowledge of their heritage, and witnessing the emergence of a new rising and stronger Africa, these young people will gain a new sense of pride about themselves and something hopeful and positive to look forward to, including partners in the development of a motherland.

Needed now is not a hand out, but "A Hand Up" for Africa; and a turning to Africa by the United States with greater assistance, and not a turning away. And the Africans will do the rest.

The Reverend Leon H. Sullivan is the author of *Sullivan Principles for Business in South Africa* and *Pastor Emeritus of Zion Baptist Church of Philadelphia*.

NAACP

(Continued from page 1)

Gibson had comfortably won three procedural votes just prior to the vote for Chairman, by margins of 35 to 22, 36 to 23 and 37 to 22. He appeared to be on his way to winning his bid for re-election. All of these procedural votes however were public, where each board member had to register their vote by a show of hands. When it came time for the election of officers, the members—who had previously agreed to cast election ballots in secret, were free to vote without fear of political retaliation. The vote was the stunning 30 to 23 tally—which meant six or seven board members had defected from Gibson's camp.

Gibson was hurt by the lack of loyalty. Not so much because he had lost the election for Chairman, but because six or seven of his supporters—had publicly sworn their allegiance, and then turned on him behind the cloak of the secret balloting. These were friends with whom he had worked closely in the past, helped at one time or another with personal problems—and in some cases had socialized with. Now, he had taken their word that they would stick with him even though it was a secret ballot. He had trusted them when they had sworn their support—and now they had betrayed him.

In the coming days, weeks and months, there will be much speculation over the names of these six

or seven members who deserted Chairman Gibson. There will also be much talk of how United Auto Workers (UAW) President Owen Beiber personally flew into New York for this meeting. He was there to ensure that each of the labor officials who serve as NAACP national board members did not break ranks to vote for Gibson. Beiber was attending his first meeting, although he had been on the board for several years.

There is also little doubt that Gibson was hurt by the negative news stories—especially those by columnist Carl T. Rowan, and the public demonstrations preceding the Board meeting, orchestrated by local supporters of Hazel Dukes. Gibson, on the other hand, could

probably be faulted for not fighting back more through the media—and orchestrating demonstrations of his own.

One other question will be answered over the coming weeks. That is who will be in charge of the NAACP's national leadership. Already rumors are coming out of the national office that New York board member Hazel Dukes, and Washington, D.C. activist C. Delores Tucker are controlling Ms. Evers. If this is true, the 86-year-old civil rights organization may not be witnessing an end to its image problems—but simply another chapter. Former Chairman Gibson has promised to be active, and if necessary to be a vocal part of the group's loyal opposition.

Crime Bill

(Continued from page 1)

in jail for at least 85 percent of their sentences.

Proponents argued that the new bills put more responsibility and resources in the hands of local government. Yet their requirements are so rigid that they contradict the principle of empowering local government. It is contradictory, on the one hand, to reject targeting federal grants for specific police hiring or prevention programs while supporting numerous federal conditions for prison building grants.

The series of six crime bills passed by the Congress are of such a thoughtless nature that some of its tenets may, in fact, be criminal. They include provisions that would: Permit police to conduct illegal warrantless searches, and admit such evidence into trial, as long as police conducted such searches in "good faith."

Includes language that will diminish prison population gaps by restricting the conditions that judges can impose in over-crowding lawsuits.

Limit death row inmate appeals to one and set time limits for courts to consider the appeals.

Every citizen in this country is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty. However, these new bills give police officers the authority to kick-in a citizen's door and search their property without a warrant, all in "good faith."

These Republican-backed bills assault individual rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In addition to giving police the right to conduct warrantless searches, death row inmates will have their right of appeals severely limited. Limiting frivolous lawsuits is a worthwhile goal, but fairness dictates that such changes should only be made in conjunction with assurances that defendants in death penalty cases receive fair trials and other safeguards against wrongful executions. This bill does not provide such safeguards and is certain to be challenged in court and could result in

innocent defendants being executed.

Why are prison populations booming? Because drug-related crimes continue to soar while most other categories of crimes are stable or dropping. Yet the new bills would wipe out \$1 billion to establish special drug courts, which have proven successful in Miami, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and other jurisdictions where they have been instituted.

A final irony: Under the new Republican bills, even the prison-building program will be hard to access. Only three states currently have the necessary sentencing laws to qualify for federal funding under the new proposals. Other states would be forced to pass such laws.

There's a right way and a wrong way to fight crime, giving police officers the authority to break the law—even in "good faith"—and putting billions more into warehousing people is precisely the wrong way.

Black Press

(Continued from page 4)

media coverage of every nuance and innuendo in the O.J. affair. The black press of America has its own reporter in the LA courtroom who provides sides of the case you never see in white-run papers. Pages of the black press carry the clash of opinions on O.J.'s innocence ranging from *The New York Beacon's* publisher Walter Smith's contention that O.J. is the victim of "manufactured evidence" to Dwight Hobbes, who in a column in the *St. Paul, Minn. Insight News*, castigated blacks for "hollering so loud" about O.J. being railroaded since he is "guilty as sin."

Yet the pages of the black press contain other salient aspects of the Simpson affair that receive little attention elsewhere. The issue of how class impacts the quality of justice was raised by *Tallahassee Capital* "look" publisher Rosevelt Wilson, who stated a person without O.J.'s wealth would not have "A prayer going against the tremendous resources" of the LA District Attorney's Office. And the downfalls of the O.J. hype were captured in a *Chicago Crusader* editorial that termed the trial a "media circus" that is distracting public attention from more important issues like Republican Party initiatives that can be "devastating."

to poor, and black, people. Why do we need a black press in this day and time? We need a black press to expose the fact that issues like police brutality remain a big problem. We need a black press to challenge such media famed myths as reverse discrimination by citing such facts as, the major beneficiaries of affirmative action programs have been white women. And we need a black press to chronicle positives in the black community, which is not a pathology ridden ghetto as frequently depicted by white media. We need a black press today, sadly for reasons similar to those that prompted the founding of *Freedom's Journal*: "From the press...we have suffered much by being incorrectly represented."

The black press of America will celebrate Black Press Week, March 15 to 17, with activities in Washington, DC ranging from White House visitations to congressional meetings on Capitol Hill. The Black Press Week Luncheon will be held at the National Press Club on Thursday, March 16, exactly 168 years after the first publication of *Freedom's Journal*.

Leon Washington Jr. is former editor of the *Philadelphia Tribune* and author of the new book *Black Judges on Justice*.

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